

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-304

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Operations and Services

MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICE PROGRAM, NWSPD 10-3

MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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Signed

April 4, 2002

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Director, Office of Climate,
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Date

MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION

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1. Purpose. To have any value, NWS marine weather products must be received by

customers. To this end, they are made available through a wide variety of dissemination vehicles outlined in this directive. A complete discussion of the communication requirements and formats is given in WSOM Chapter C-63/NWSI 10-1702.

2. Responsibilities. To ensure NWS marine weather products are effectively processed and disseminated, offices issuing these shall ensure their products are clear, properly disseminated, and properly formatted.

3. Communications Header Formats. Except as noted, all marine products issued by the NWS shall have common communication headers. Included in these are:

(WMO ID)(ISSUANCE TIME)(AMENDMENT/CORRECTION IDENTIFIER)
(AWIPS ID)

PRODUCT NAME
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY)(STATE)
(OFFICE ID IF NEEDED)
(VALID TIME) AM/PM (TIME ZONE)(DAY)(DATE-MON DAY YEAR))

3.1 World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Identifier(ID). The WMO has established a scheme used throughout the world for identifying meteorological products. These codes are defined in WMO Manual 386. Each alphanumeric marine product issued by the NWS shall have an appropriate WMO header.

3.2 Issuance Time. This time is automatically placed on every product transmitted.

3.3 Amendment/Correction Identifier. This is a three letter code to denote if a product has been non-routinely amended (AAX) or corrected (CCX). Use separate letters to denote more than one change (e.g. CCA, CCB, CCC).

3.4 Automated Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) ID. Each NWS alphanumeric product has been assigned a 6 letter identifier (see Appendix A). Each alphanumeric marine product issued by the NWS shall include an appropriate AWIPS ID.

3.5 Product Name. This is the common phrase describing what the product is (e.g., COASTAL WATERS FORECAST). Each alphanumeric marine product issued by the NWS shall include an appropriate product name.

3.6 City/State. Each alphanumeric marine product issued by the NWS shall include the appropriate city and state in which the office issuing the product is located.

3.7 Office ID. The forecast branches of the TPC and MPC may include their office identifiers in this location.

3.8 Valid Time Line. This line of the header defines when the forecast is scheduled to take effect. It shall be included in all NWS text marine products issued.

3.9 Universal Generic Code (UGC) Codes. In the coastal and offshore waters and Great Lakes, all marine zones have been assigned UGCs as noted in NWSI 10-302. Forecasts, statements, and warnings including these areas shall contain the UGC code line identifying the marine zones impacted by the product. As in WSOM Chapter C-63/NWSI 10-1702, the format of this line is: (UGC CODE[S])-(EXPIRATION TIME)-

3.10 SafetyNET Format. SafetyNET is an internationally agreed to, satellite based system for disseminating high seas information. Because SafetyNET is designed to distribute messages upon receipt, products must be completed and released so they will be broadcast within the scheduled time window. In the event of an unscheduled broadcast (as for an amended HSF) or a missed transmission, these messages are broadcast twice, 6 minutes apart, to improve the likelihood they will be received.

3.10.1 CCODES. To control product dissemination, a system of "C codes" is used. It is vital this format be followed explicitly. C codes take the following form and are located as in the following example:

ZCZC NFDHSFAT1
TTAA00 KNFD 221025

CCODE/C₁:C₂:C₃:C₄:C₅/SAT/NWS/CCODE
HIGH SEAS FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WASHINGTON DC/TPC MIAMI FL
MARINE PREDICTION CENTER/MFB 1030 UTC DEC 22 2000
SUPERSEDED BY NEXT ISSUANCE IN 6 HOURS

(TEXT)
NNNN

For routine HSFs:

NFDHSFAT1 - CCODE/1:31:04:01:00/AOW/NWS/CCODE
NFDHSFEPI - CCODE/1:31:12:01:00/AOW+POR/NWS/CCODE
MIAHSFEP3 - CCODE/1:31:16:01:00/AOW/NWS/CCODE

For routine HSFs, broadcast 15 minutes early or late

NFDHSFAT1 - CCODE/1:31:04:11:00/AOW/NWS/CCODE
NFDHSFEPI - CCODE/1:31:12:11:00/AOW+POR/NWS/CCODE
NFDHSFEP3 - CCODE/1:31:16:11:00/AOW/NWS/CCODE

For HSFs containing tropical cyclone warnings:

NFDHSFAT1 - CCODE/2:31:04:11:00/AOW+AOE/NWS/CCODE
NFDHSFEPI - CCODE/2:31:12:11:00/AOW+POR+AOE/NWS/CCODE
NFDHSFEP3 - CCODE/2:31:16:11:00/AOW+POR+AOE/NWS/CCODE

3.10.2 Forecast Combinations. HSFs issued by TPC or MPC, are broadcast via SafetyNET as shown below:

<u>WMO Fcst Area</u>	<u>Product ID</u>	<u>Satellite(s)</u>	<u>Broadcast (UTC)*</u>
04 (Atlantic)	NFDHSFAT1	AOW	0430,1030,1630,2230
12 (Pacific)	NFDHSFEPI	AOW+POW	0500,1100,1700,2300
16 (Off Peru)	MIAHSFEP3	AOW	0515,1115,1715,2315

* - The transmission window for these broadcasts is open
15 minutes before to 15 minutes after the listed times.

The areas of these forecasts is explicitly defined by the WMO and shall not be modified without prior coordination with NWS headquarters, Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services.

HSFs HFOHSFSP, HFOHSFNP, NFDHSFEP1, MIAHSFEP2, and MIAHSFAT2 shall not be broadcast directly over SafetyNET and therefore shall not contain CCODES.

4. Communication Systems. Marine products are disseminated through a variety of systems. Among these are NOAA Weather Radio; USCG and other Governmental and commercial radio, Navigational Teleprinter Exchange (NAVTEX), Simplex Telephone Exchange Over Radio (SITOR) and radiofacsimile broadcasts; Internet and other computer to computer systems; and satellite based systems such as SafetyNET and the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN). Complete information on these systems can be found via the NWS marine product dissemination information webpage <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm>. Other systems may be added with coordination through NWS Headquarters, Office of Operational Systems. Several of the most widely used marine dissemination systems are described below.

4.1 NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). WSOM Chapter C-64/NWSI 10-1701 provides

overall policy on the NWR. The marine portion of the NWR program should routinely include the latest forecasts for marine areas within the radio's broadcast area and a summary of local area marine observations. Marine warnings and advisories should be emphasized. Additional information, such as offshore waters forecasts, oceanographic conditions, tidal data, etc., may be included based on local customer requirements. The amount and content of the marine products broadcast over the NWR may be adjusted according to the time of day and season.

Special marine warnings affecting any part of a NWR listening area should be immediately placed in the broadcast cycle and warning alarms used as appropriate. Broadcast of other non-routine marine products is at the discretion of the local office manager based on local customer requirements. Broadcasts of emergency marine information, such as MAYDAYS, should be consistent with NWR policy governing such broadcasts for land-based emergencies.

4.2 USCG Radio Broadcasts. The USCG is a prime disseminator of marine weather information for the U.S. via high frequency (HF), medium frequency (MF) and very high frequency (VHF) voice, NAVTEX, SITOR, and radiofacsimile (U.S. Navy in Hawaii). Lists of NWS products and broadcast schedule information is available under the NWS marine product dissemination information webpage. The USCG receives NWS text forecasts via the NOAA Weather Wire System (NWWS).

4.3 WWV/WWVH HF Voice (Time Tick). Brief recorded statements on major storm systems are prepared and tape recorded by the offices listed below for hourly broadcast over the time and frequency radio stations WWV (Boulder, Colorado) and WWVH (Honolulu) operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

From WWV, Atlantic high seas warnings are broadcast at 7 and 8 minutes past the hour while Pacific high seas warnings are broadcast at 9 minutes past the hour.

From WWVH, Pacific high seas warnings are broadcast from 48 to 51 minutes past the hour.

<u>STATION</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
WWV	Western North Atlantic Gulf of Mexico Caribbean Sea	MPC
WWVH	Eastern Pacific North Pacific Tropical South Pacific	Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Honolulu

The script is a brief summary describing the location and movement of storms producing, or expected to produce, gale, storm, or tropical cyclone force winds and associated seas. This service is intended to supplement the primary marine weather broadcasts that give more complete information. When time permits, add the following:

"More complete information is available from other marine broadcast stations."

4.4. Internet. The Internet, should, as much as possible, provide access to all NWS marine weather products, text and graphic. Each WFO and National Center should maintain a marine web page providing such information as local forecasts, tide predictions, and local observations.

Links to all NWS marine products will be located in the NWS marine product dissemination information web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

4.5 FTPMAIL. NWS radiofax charts and marine text products are available via e-mail. The FTPMAIL server will be maintained by NWS headquarters and is intended to allow Internet access for mariners and other customers who do not have direct access to the World Wide Web but who are equipped with an e-mail system. Instructions are maintained on the marine product dissemination information web site.

4.6 Digital Marine Weather Dissemination System (DMAWDS). DMAWDS is a computer-to-computer system housed at WFO Cleveland directed to Great Lakes customers. Volunteer Observing Ship (VOS) customers authorized by WFO Cleveland receive products from it. The Cleveland staff shall maintain this system.

4.7 Great Lakes Faxback. WFO Cleveland also houses the Great Lakes Faxback system whereby VOS customers authorized by WFO Cleveland can receive selected weather products via facsimile. The Cleveland staff will maintain this system.

4.8 SafetyNET. Inmarsat-C SafetyNET is an internationally adopted, automated satellite system for disseminating weather forecasts and warnings, marine navigational warnings and other safety related information to all types of vessels. Along with NAVTEX, it is part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

4.9 Other Dissemination Systems NWS marine products are distributed by other means including several common to other NWS forecasts including telephone recordings, NWWS, EMWIN, NOAAPORT, etc. For more detailed information see the NWS marine product dissemination information web page.

APPENDIX A - Text Marine Product List by AWIPS ID

XXX is the three letter identifier of the office issuing the product; VVV, in high seas, NAVTEX, or offshore forecasts, is a two or three letter identifier designating specific ocean areas (appendix B); ZZ, in the open lakes forecast, is the two letter identifier of the specific Great Lake; and YYY is a three letter identifier of the appropriate ocean (PAC (Pacific) or ATL (Atlantic)) for the marine interpretation message.

PRODUCT	AWIPS IDENTIFIER
Coastal Waters Forecast -	CWFXXX
Surf Zone Forecast -	SRFXXX
Offshore Forecast -	OFFVVV
NAVTEX Forecast -	OFFVVV
High Seas Forecast -	HSFVVV
Open Lakes Forecast -	GLFZZ
Nearshore Forecast -	NSHXXX
Storm Summary -	GLSCLE
Marine Alert -	MAWCLE
Special Marine Warning -	SMWXXX
Marine Weather Statement -	MWSXXX
Marine Weather Discussion -	MIMYYY

